

The COLORED American

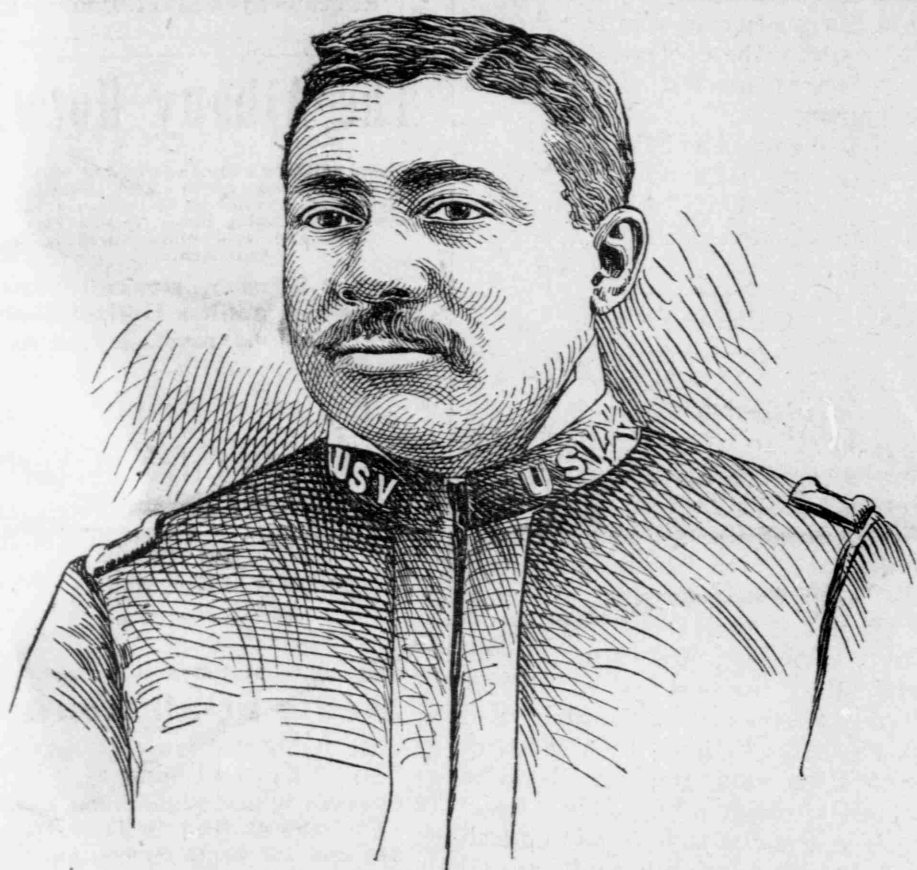
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HON. J. C. DUKE,
Editor of The Pine Bluff Herald, Pine Bluff, Ark.

AN ARKANSAS EDITOR.

Mr. J. C. Duke, a Leader in Secret Society Work.

A Former Alabamian Finds Fertile Soil and Thrives in Arkansas.—A Life Story Which Reads Like a Romance.—Editor, Politician and Leader, He Commands the Respect and Confidence of His Followers.

One of our most representative colored men in the Southwest, is Mr. J. C. Duke, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who is a vigilant and enterprising business man. In the early eighties, Mr. Duke, then a promising young man of exceptional talents and largely self educated, made himself an important factor in the politics of his native state, Alabama, and soon acquired leadership among his own people, representing them even in the Na-

tional Conventions. So loyal did they become to him and so intrepid and intelligent were his services, that the whites of Alabama organized against him as they did against many others of our strong race leaders, and their persecution of him eventuated in his being compelled to leave his native state.

Recognizing the greater possibility of usefulness in the Southwest, he settled in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where for more than a dozen years he has held an enviable position in the estimation of both white and colored citizens, by his probity and his high character.

Mr. Duke is the editor and proprietor of the Pine Bluff Weekly Herald, into which he has infused so much of his great personality that it has become easily the most influential and the best paying journal of the race in the whole State of Arkansas. He has a pos-

itive genius for organization and and for systematic work. This is clearly shown by the fact that while other interests keep Mr. Duke away from Pine Bluff, for much of each year, his newspaper is so well ordered and the business so admirably arranged that his young son, himself of no mean ability, manages to keep the Herald always in the forefront both intellectually and economically.

We have many men who are described as men of one idea and who have indeed achieved in their devotion to that single pursuit, but of Mr. Duke it may truthfully be said that he has both tenacity and versatility. He has not only distinguished himself as a newspaper man, but he has made his mark in various other directions,

notably in the prosperous and popular organization, the Knights of Pythias, of which he is Grand Chancellor of the jurisdiction of Arkansas.

His worth to that order and his untiring activity in its service will be appreciated when it is known that in less than two years service as its head in the state of Arkansas, he has increased its membership from 1779 souls to 3700 and its net receipts from \$1,680 to \$7,000. Without a single dollar of indebtedness. His recent re-election as Grand Chancellor, was by acclamation. He numbers among his personal friends all the most prominent men of our race in Arkansas, among whom there may be named Judge Miffin, W. Gibbs,

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